

Applic. No. 10/813,545  
Amdt. dated April 20, 2006  
Reply to Office action of April 5, 2006

Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1 and 3-16 are now in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 2 is being cancelled herewith. Claims 13-16 have been added. Support for claims 13-16 can be found in the original claims. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

In item 2 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 1, 5-8, and 11-12 have been rejected as being obvious over Villarreal (U.S. Patent No. 4,869,167) in view of Koeniger (U.S. Patent No. 6,595,133) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

In item 3 on page 4 of the Office action, claims 1 and 9 have been rejected as being obvious over Schneider et al. (DE 10118132) in view of Koeniger (U.S. Patent No. 6,595,133) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

It is appreciatively noted from item 4 on page 4 of the Office action that claims 2-4 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 2. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable. Since claim 1 is allowable, dependent claims 3-12 are allowable as well.

Claim 13 has been added. Claim 13 is original claim 1 amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 3. Therefore, claim 13 is allowable as well.

Claim 15 has been added. Claim 14 is original claim 1 amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 10. Therefore, claim 15 is allowable as well.

New claims 14 and 16 are dependent claim 4 made dependent on claims 13 and 15 respectively. Therefore, claims 14 and 16 are allowable as well.

Since only allowable claims remain, the early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited herewith.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

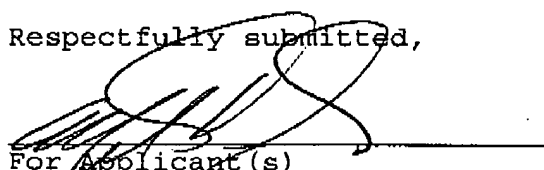
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If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition  
for extension is herewith made.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect  
to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner  
Greenberg Stemer LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

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AKD:cgm

April 20, 2006

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